

A photograph of a young woman with voluminous, curly, light brown hair. She is smiling and looking down at a black smartphone she is holding in her hands. She is wearing a dark blue sleeveless top and blue jeans. A blue leather backpack strap is visible over her shoulder. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be an outdoor setting with a red wall and some foliage.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CROSSROADS V

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
PERCEPTIONS, CHOICES AND
MOTIVATIONS DURING COVID-19

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CROSSROADS V

International student perceptions, choices and motivations during COVID-19

The research examined the attitudes and intentions of over 4,000 international student applicants, offer holders and current students from 20 countries during July 2021.

Are you still expecting to commence your studies as planned? | YOY

79% of respondents expected to start their studies as planned, up from 74% a year ago in June 2020.

Total respondents - July 2021 responses

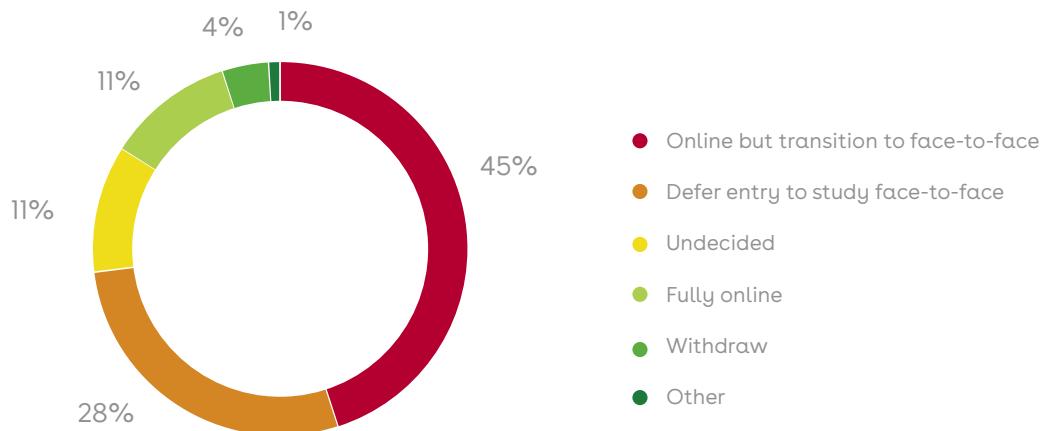


Total respondents - June 2020 responses



● Yes ● I don't know ● No

What is your current mindset towards the course delivery options available?



In the short term, as we continue to manage the pandemic, how teaching and learning is delivered remains a key consideration. 45% of students are willing to commence online if they can then transfer to face-to-face and a further 28% are wishing to defer until face-to-face becomes available. Only 11% are willing to study fully online.

Short term attitudes to delivery modes - for each destination country:

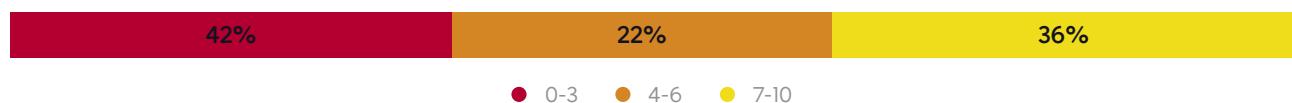


- I will continue with my study plans, even if programmes/courses are fully online
- I will continue with my study plans, even if programmes/courses start online, as long as they transition
- I will defer until I can study face-to-face
- I am still undecided on what to do next

As seen in previous Crossroads surveys, students' attitudes towards online study differ depending on their chosen destination country. Students looking to study in Canada and the UK are more likely to commence online and transition to face-to-face, while students in Australia and New Zealand are more likely to defer until face-to-face becomes available.

Will you switch destination to gain face-to-face teaching sooner?

Total respondents



Respondents answered on a scale of 0-10 (0 = Not at all likely, 10 = Extremely likely)

36% of respondents were likely to switch destinations if it means being able to gain face-to-face teaching earlier.

Which of these statements is closest to your thoughts or situation about a potential vaccine passport requirement?

Total respondents

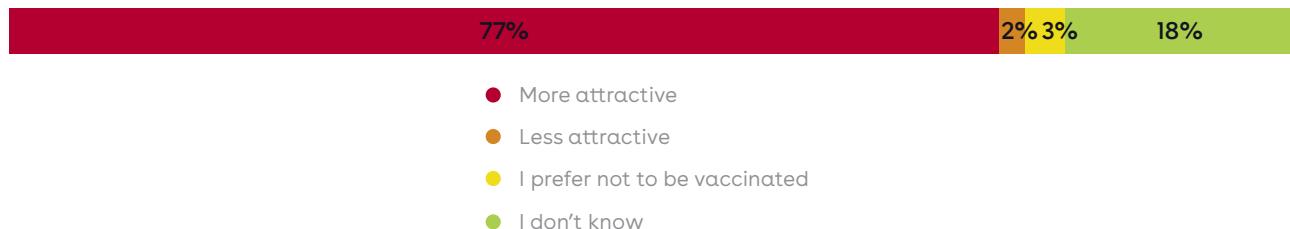


- I have already been vaccinated and can comply to this requirement
- I will get the vaccine as soon as I am able, so I can get a vaccine passport
- I need more information about the vaccine before I can decide my next steps
- I am willing to wait until vaccine passports are no longer required

Over half of the students surveyed have already received a vaccine that would enable them to comply with vaccine passport travel requirements. A further 36% of students expressed a willingness to be vaccinated as soon as they are able to, in order to meet their destination's entry requirements. Only 11% of students either required more information on vaccines or intended to wait until vaccines were not required to travel to their destination. The research indicates students have a willingness and proactivity regarding becoming vaccinated, often above that of their wider home country population. However, student attitudes varied considerably between their home countries.

If you have not yet received a vaccine for COVID-19, would vaccines being made available to students on arrival make travelling to your destination more or less attractive?

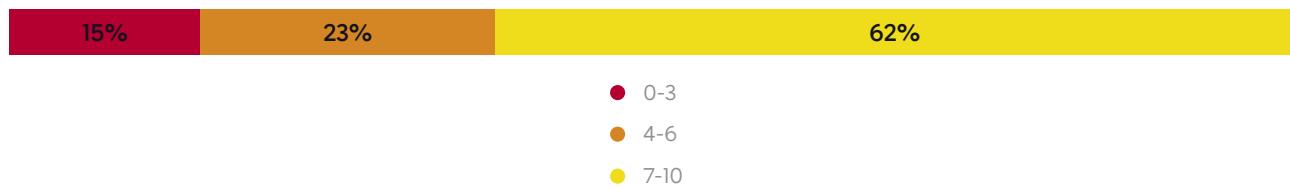
Total respondents



Of those students who had not yet received a vaccine, 77% reported that if their destinations made vaccines available to students upon arrival, it would be more attractive to them. Only 5% responded that they did not want to be vaccinated or would view the destination as less attractive if offered the vaccine. This may reflect that the majority of students' view becoming vaccinated as a step that will protect their health in the destination country, or hope that being vaccinated will help to ensure in-person teaching is able to be delivered.

If a vaccine passport is required, how confident are you about being able to receive both doses in your home country prior to travelling?

Total respondents

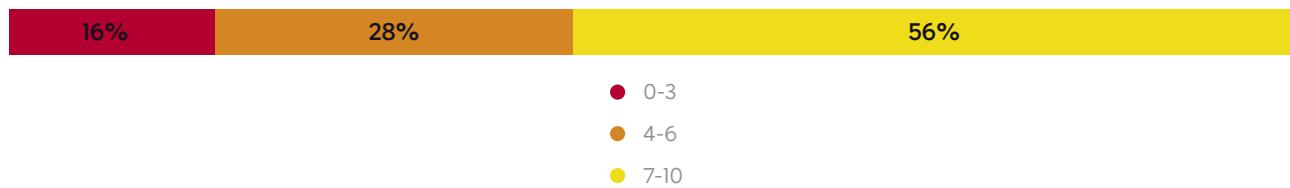


Respondents answered on a scale of 0-10 (0 = Not at all confident, 10 = Extremely confident)

Students who had not yet been vaccinated were less confident that they would be able to become fully vaccinated prior to travelling, even if willing to do so. While 62% were very confident they would be able to be fully vaccinated prior to travelling to their destination country, 38% were either somewhat confident or not confident that they would be able to do so.

How comfortable are you with travelling after having received only the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in your home country and receiving the second one in your destination country?

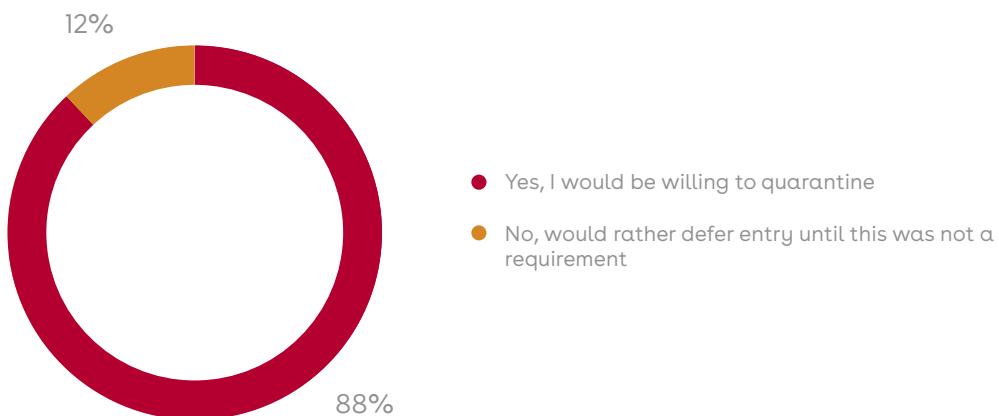
Total respondents



Respondents answered on a scale of 0-10 (0 = Not at all comfortable, 10 = Extremely comfortable)

Equally, student views were split regarding their willingness to divide their vaccination process across their home and destination country. Although 56% of students reported that they were extremely comfortable with travelling after receiving a first vaccine dose in their home country and receiving the second dose in their destination country, 16% reported being very uncomfortable with that approach and a further 28% expressed having some discomfort with the idea.

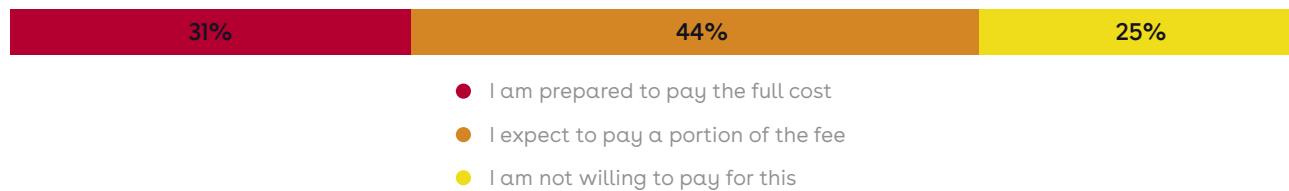
If required to quarantine, would you be willing to do so or would you prefer to wait until this was not a requirement of entry?



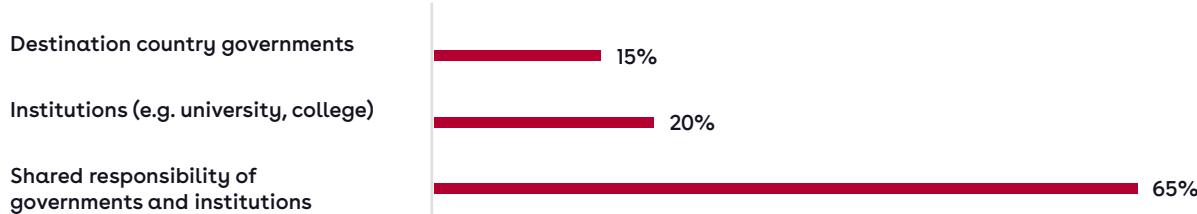
88% of students reported a willingness to quarantine upon arrival in their destination country rather than defer. Of these students, nearly a third were prepared to pay the full costs of quarantining at a government facility themselves, with a further 44% expecting to pay a portion of the fee. Only a quarter of students were unwilling to cover the costs of quarantining. Of those who were not willing to pay for quarantine, 65% expected the destination government and institutions to share the responsibility of covering the costs.

In most cases, travellers have to shoulder the cost of both quarantine accommodation and the COVID-19 tests (before departing and after arrival) that need to be conducted. How do you feel about this?

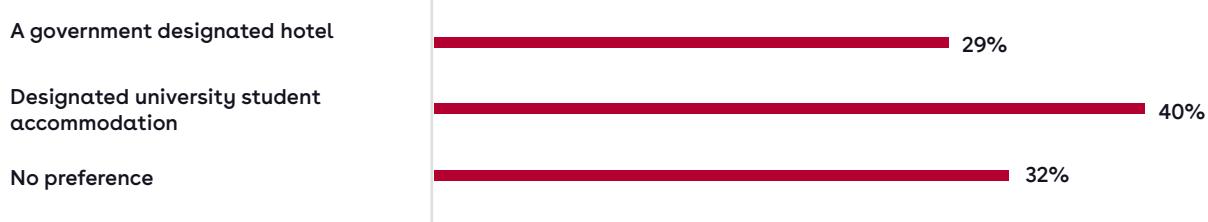
Total respondents



If you are not willing to pay or willing to pay only a portion of cost for any of the mentioned health requirements, who do you expect to shoulder all or most of the cost?

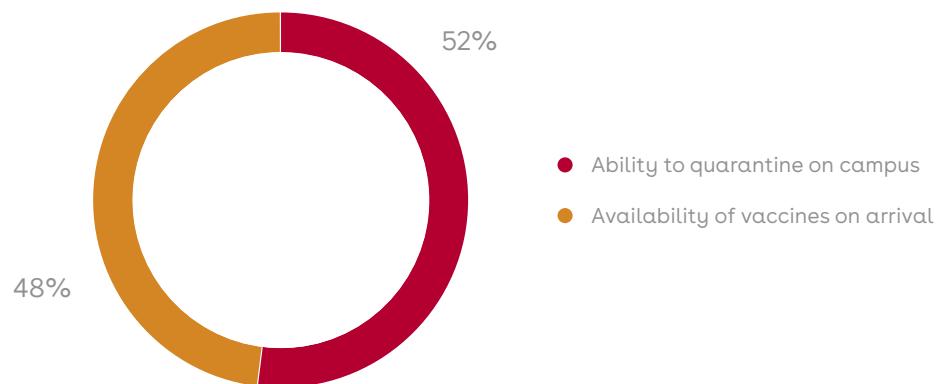


If required to quarantine upon arrival by the destination country government, which of the following options would be of your preference?



When asked their preferred destination country quarantine location, there was a slight preference, 40% for designated university accommodation, while 29% would prefer a government designated hotel and 32% expressed no preference.

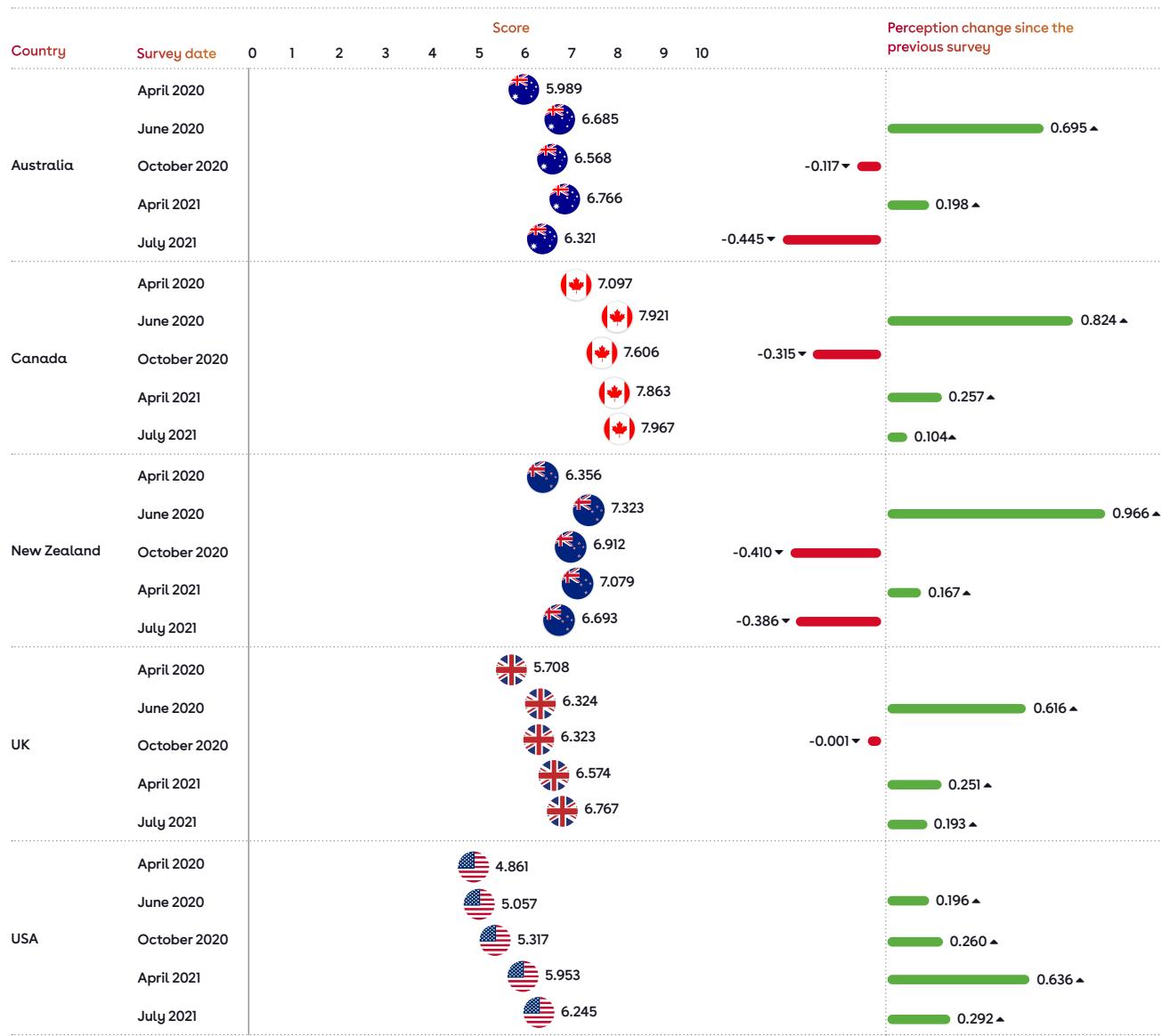
Which is most important when deciding to travel to your destination?



Opinion was also split regarding whether availability of a vaccine upon arrival or the ability to quarantine on campus was more important to students, with 48% preferring a vaccine option and 52% preferring the ability to quarantine on campus.

How would you score destination countries across the welfare of international students? (How perceptions of destinations have changed for each Crossroads survey).

0 = Poor response, 10 = Excellent response



ustralia

Canada

NZ

UK

USA

The impact of COVID-19 and government policies have had an impact on student perceptions of destination countries, and how well each destination country has performed in relation to the welfare of international students. Countries that have had open borders have seen an increase in student perceptions of international student welfare, while countries who have had closed borders have seen a decline. This suggests international students see open borders and the ability to study in-country as key to international student welfare, and may equate open borders to a welcoming international student experience.



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- A significant number of incoming students have been vaccinated, with many others willing to do so whether before travelling to their destination country or upon arrival
- Students are not only willing to quarantine: they are flexible about where they do so and not put off by having to cover costs themselves
- Demand remains strong for destinations that are open and welcoming to students

CONSIDERATIONS:

Lack of clarity as to when and how students will be able to transition to face-to-face teaching is the biggest barrier for those commencing online. Equally, while the majority of students are willing to be vaccinated and quarantine for in-country teaching, they do not always have the information or practical ability to do so.

Moving forward, it is imperative that institutions and destination country governments:

- Communicate when and how courses will be delivered, including schedules for transitioning from online to face-to-face
- Support students with information and advice on how they can safely arrive in the destination country and travel to campus
- Share details of student access to vaccinations upon arrival

GET IN TOUCH

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